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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 2, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FERREE’S
GROUP HOMES SITES TWO, THREE AND FOUR**

We have completed a review of Ferree’s Group Homes Sites Two, Three and Four (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ferree’s Group Home, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ferree’s Group Homes Sites Two, Three and Four are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 8-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ferree’s Group Homes Sites Two, Three and Four were not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

The Agency is located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to evaluate the Agency’s facility and environment. Additionally, since the Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our visit, the monitoring review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included only a facility inspection.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Summary of Findings

The Agency needs to address several facility and environment deficiencies.

Ferree's Group Homes Site Three and Site Four need to replace missing window screens.

Ferree's Group Home Site Three needs to repair the kitchen stove, repair or replace the supply room door, secure the weightlifting equipment, maintain a sufficient supply of educational resources, and provide a computer for the children's use.

Ferree's Group Home Site Four needs to landscape the backyard and repair the holes in the walls in the hallway and in bedroom two.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Phillip Ferree, Executive Director, Ferree's Group Homes, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Ferree's Group Home, Incorporated
Site Two
14542 Mission Street
Cabazon, California 92230
Phone: (909) 849-2338
License Number: 330910416
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ferree's Group Home Site Two is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Ferree's Group Home, Incorporated
Site Three
2269 West Nicolet Street
Banning, California 92220
Phone: (909) 849-2338
License Number: 336400048
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ferree's Group Home Site Three is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the right rear burner on the kitchen stove does not light, the door to the hygiene supply area is damaged, and the window screens in the den are missing.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings are in good repair; however, the window screens in bedroom three are missing. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. However, the weightlifting equipment is not secured, books and resource materials are limited, and a computer with a variety of programs is not available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ferree's Group Homes management:

- a. Replace the missing window screens in the den and bedroom.**
- b. Repair the burner on the kitchen stove.**
- c. Repair or replace the supply room door.**

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- d. Secure the plates to the weightlifting equipment when not in use.
- e. Maintain a sufficient supply of educational and resource materials including age-appropriate books.
- f. Provide a computer with a variety of programs for the children's use.

**Ferree's Group Home, Incorporated
Site Four
1621 North Durward Street
Banning, California 92220
Phone: (909) 849-2338
License Number: 336401342
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ferree's Group Home Site Four is located in a residential community. Generally, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean; however, the lawn in the back yard is worn and sparse.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are holes in the walls in the hallway and in bedroom two.

Generally, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings are in good repair; however, window screens are missing from the bedroom windows. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ferree's Group Homes management:

- a. Maintain an appropriate lawn in the back yard.**
- b. Repair the holes in the walls in the hallway and bedroom.**
- c. Replace the missing window screens in the bedroom.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 4999 J Fuller St. Cabazon Ca, 92230 (909) 849-0340 (909) 849-7656	<input type="checkbox"/> 14542 Mission St. Cabazon Ca, 922230 (909) 849-5562 (909) 922-0863	<input type="checkbox"/> 2269 W. Nicolet St. Banning Ca, 92220 (909) 849-1927 (909) 849-6888	<input type="checkbox"/> 1621 N Durward St. Banning Ca, 92220 (909) 849-7066 (909) 849- 9855	<input type="checkbox"/> 860 S. 22 nd St Banning Ca, 92220 (909) 922-3554 (909) 849-8516
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Date: February 1, 2007

To: Candace Rhue
Group Home Auditor Supervisor

From: Alisha Jones
Ferree's Group Home Administrator

Subject: CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #3 and #4: All recommendation has been implemented as of January 31, 07.

I. Facility Environment

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management must replace the missing window screens, repair the burner on the kitchen stove, replace and secure the door to the hygiene supply room. Secure the plates to the weightlifting equipment when not in use. Provide the children with a sufficient supply of on-site educational materials and resources, including a computer with a variety of programs.

Method of Correction

Site #3 Nicolet Street

- a. Window screens were replaced on December 27, 2006. A regular monthly schedule has been added to the maintenance schedule for window screen repair or replacement.
- b. The kitchen burner was repaired on December 5, 2006 and is operating with no problems.
- c. The door to the hygiene supply room was repaired on December 12, 2006 and the hygiene products were secured and moved to a storage cabinet in the facility.

Method of Correction Cont.

- d. The weightlifting equipment was secured with a locked metal cable wire on December 12, 2006.
- e. New computers will be purchased by March 1, 2007 to replace the out dated ones. The new computers will have educational and resource materials with a variety of programs.
- f. The group home has extended their book selection and have order magazines, such as Motor Trend, Sports Illustrated and ESP. A variety of new books where donated by the local library on January 19, 07.

I. Facility and Environment

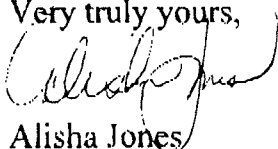
Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management will maintain the lawn in back yard. Repair the holes in the walls and make sure the missing screens are replaced.

Site #4 Durward Street

- a. The manager will make sure the Gardner will maintain the lawn weekly. The re-seeding of the lawn will begin on May 1, 2007.
- b. The holes were repaired and a maintenance schedule was established. The Gardner will mow the lawn every Thursday.
- c. The window screens were replaced on November 1, 2006.

Ferree's Group Home has implemented all of the recommended corrections. The facility managers will be responsible for maintaining all corrections and the administrator will do a monthly follow-up with each facility manager starting February 1, 2007.

Very truly yours,



Alisha Jones
Group Home Administrator